



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,686	11/17/2003	Hiroaki Onishi	10921.93USDI	4560
52835	7590	04/19/2007	EXAMINER	
HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON, P.C.			GIBBS, HEATHER D	
P.O. BOX 2902			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0902			2625	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/19/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/715,686	ONISHI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Heather D. Gibbs	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 21,22,24,25,27-29 and 31-42 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 29 and 31-42 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 21,22,24 and 25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 27 and 28 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date *See continuation*

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 29,31-42 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine said prior art which teaches an assembly comprising a casing and transparent light conductor wherein the light conducting unit includes a first transparent member housed within the casing, and a second transparent member partially housed in the casing and partially projecting out of the casing, wherein the first transparent member is provided with a light receiving surface and light emitting surface opposite to the light receiving surface, at least one of the light receiving surface and the light emitting surface being provided with a convex portion, as taught by claim 29,39-42, including all of the features recited therein.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Claims 27-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 21-22,24-25, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sawase et al (US 6,014,231).

Regarding claim 21, Sawase discloses an assembly (Fig 2) comprising a casing (i.e. element 2) and a transparent light conductor (cylindrical lens unit 4 is transparent light conductor), wherein the light conductor 4 includes a first portion housed in the casing at least partially (Fig 2, the lower part of the element 4 is partially located in the casing unit 2), and a second portion projecting out of the casing (the upper portion of the element 4 is considered a “second portion” as claimed, and it is clearly projected out of the casing unit 2 as shown below), wherein the first portion includes a light receiving surface (the lower portion of the element 4 is receiving the light from the light emitting element 7), wherein the second portion includes a light emitting surface for allowing light to exit (the upper portion of the element is emitting the light to the element 10), and wherein the light receiving surface is formed with a convex portion (the lower portion of the element is clearly formed with a convex portion).

For claim 22, Sawase teaches wherein the second portion is bent relative to the first portion (Fig 2).

Regarding claim 24, Sawase discloses wherein the light-emitting surface is formed with a plurality of indents each of which is provided with an inclined portion slanted relative to the light-receiving surface (recess 2f).

For claim 25, Sawase teaches wherein the light emitting surface is formed with a plurality of projections each having a corner at which a cutout is provided (light receiving portions 8a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather D. Gibbs whose telephone number is 571-272-7404. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu 8AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung S. Moe can be reached on 571-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Heather D Gibbs
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

hdg

B. K.
AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
4/16/07